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3 February 1965

OCI No. 0549/65
Copy No.

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INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

DEVELOPMENTS IN COUNTRIES ON THE COUNTERINSURGENCY LIST

DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE
Office of Current Intelligence

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W A R N I N G

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
3 February 1965

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Developments in Countries on the
Counterinsurgency List

1. Thailand

The Communists appear to be stepping up their propaganda in Thailand. On 23 January a clandestine Communist-operated radio station on the Lao - North Vietnam border announced the formation of a "Patriotic Front of Thailand," which will probably promote the Communist line in elections slated for later this year. In recent months the Communists have called for the ouster of the Thanom government and the "imperialist master," and formed another front called the Thai Independence Movement.

Meanwhile, the government is scheduled to begin on 3 February a week-long security sweep against suspected subversives in Nakhom Phanom Province in the northeast. Previous operations of this sort have not been particularly fruitful and the advance publicity given the current one suggests that it will do no better.

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2. Sudan

The long-standing conflict between the non-Communist Front of Political Parties--led by the Ansar religious brotherhood--and the Communist-dominated Professional Front may soon lead to renewed violence in Khartoum. If the cabinet continues to ignore demands by the parties that elections be held by the end of March, Ansar leaders may make some open attempt to depose the leftist-dominated transitional government. Such a move could provoke army intervention on the side of the Ansar. Although the widespread purges in the military have seriously weakened and demoralized most army units, recent efforts by the Communists to increase their own strength in the army have met firm resistance from many senior officers.

The Communists maintain that the elections must be country-wide, and probably hope to continue to use the "southern problem" as an excuse to delay them. Negotiations between the central government and the southern dissident organization SANU are now scheduled to begin on 12 February in Juba. The Communists, however, apparently control half of the government delegation votes, and will probably adopt an inflexible bargaining position. As there seems to be little chance that a successful compromise can be worked out with the southerners before the 31 March deadline, a showdown between Ansar leaders and the leftists is likely.

3. Congo

Military activity remained at a low level last week, except for the temporary rebel occupation of Mahagi near the Ugandan border, and of Mwenga, southwest of Bukavu. The planned government push to "seal off" the Sudan border may not begin for another two weeks. Contracts of mercenaries in Paulis and Bunia expire soon, and their commander, Lt. Col. Hoare, is delaying

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major military movements until they can be replaced with new recruits. Some of the 350 replacements--most of them South African regulars on leave status--have arrived at Kamina.

Large rebel concentrations remain to the north and northeast of Stanleyville, but the security situation in the city itself and around its perimeter has improved. Another barge convoy of food, ammunition, and aviation gas should arrive soon.

No known air deliveries of arms to the rebels by Egypt, Algeria, or Ghana have occurred since 24 January. There is growing evidence, however, that since the cutting of the Juba-Aba road by southern Sudanese rebels, arms probably stored earlier at Juba have been taken into the northeast Congo by means of night airdrops by unidentified planes.

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Three hundred miles downriver from Stanleyville, a rebel build-up continues at Lisala apparently for an attempt to capture some 75 vehicles owned by a Unilever plantation there. Farther south, reinforced mercenary-led Congo Army units have failed to advance from positions around Boende.

In the southeast, the government's position in Uvira may be improving. Uvira has recently been reinforced by a small contingent of mercenaries, and rebel activity has declined. Limited fighting continues around Fizi; neither the rebels nor the army has been able to advance.

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4. Laos

The fast-moving crisis in Vientiane, touched off by an attempted takeover of the military command by a group of discontented officers on 31 January, seems to be moving into the final stages. The showdown between General Phoumi's dissident rightists assisted by security chief General Siho, and forces loyal to regional commander Kouprasith has apparently been resolved in favor of Kouprasith.

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Vientiane is now under his firm control. Rebel troops have been dislodged from key positions in the capital. Siho's headquarters has been reduced to rubble. Although the situation looks bleak for Phoumi, it is possible he may find a way to escape to either Paksane or one of the other southern centers where some support may be forthcoming. Whether he makes his way south or not, his prestige will have suffered a serious blow.

In the Thakhek area of central Laos, the Communists have resumed operations similar to the forays they conducted early last December. On 30-31 January, enemy forces--reportedly in battalion strength--launched attacks against government regular and guerrilla forces near Route 13 about 20-25 miles southeast of Thakhek.

In the north, recent reports suggest that the Communists may be preparing another clearing operation against regular and guerrilla forces operating in territory the Pathet Lao claim to be within their "liberated area." Several guerrilla units in the hills surrounding Muong Sai, north of Luang Prabang, were forced from their positions in mid-January as a result of sharply stepped-up enemy pressure. Communist pressure on government pockets southwest of Sam Neua continues.

Communist reinforcements have also been moved into the hills northwest of Ban Ban, presumably for the purpose of increasing the security of the important Route 7 road artery leading from North Vietnam to the Plaine des Jarres. Last week an estimated 200 North Vietnamese troops dispersed a Meo guerrilla unit in this area.

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5. Colombia

A dynamite bomb was discovered in the US Embassy in Bogota on 29 January, the first such attempt against a US Government installation in Colombia for many months. Found with the bomb were a handful of anti - US military aid circulars, signed by "The Juvenil Patriotic Resistance," a previously unknown organization.

According to the influential Colombian Farmer's Society, 113 farmers and ranchers have been kidnaped in the past 13 months. Their captors, presumably bandits, are said to have collected more than \$900,000 in ransom.

Meanwhile, a hard-line splinter group of the regular Communist Party is attempting to gain control of the Communist-dominated Army of National Liberation (ELN) and other guerrilla groups. The splinter group, known as The Communist Party of Colombia--Marxist/Leninist (PCC-ML)--claims to have Cuban support as does the ELN.

6. Peru

President Belaunde has authorized the roundup of numerous leftist extremists, according to a clandestine source. Some of the extremists are suspected of taking part in the arson attempt against the US Army Mission headquarters in Lima on 30 January. Five unidentified armed men were unsuccessful in their attempt to burn the building after first disarming the Peruvian military policeman on duty outside. The terrorists did not enter the building, but escaped, taking with them the guard's weapon and keys to the mission.

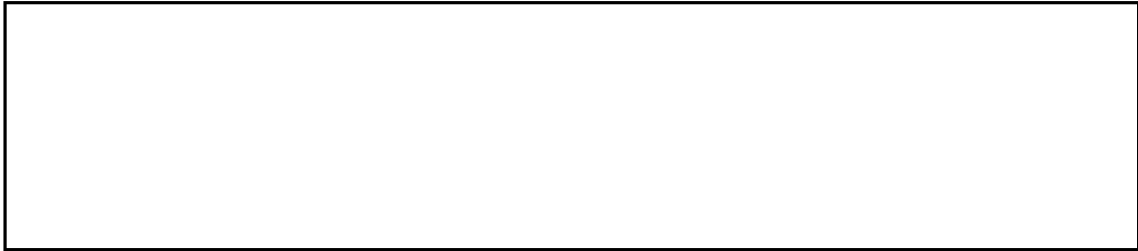
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7. No significant developments relating to insurgency have been reported regarding Burundi, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Somalia, Jordan, Iraq, Iran, Pakistan, Indonesia, Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, Guatemala, or Honduras. (See next page for item on Venezuela.)

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3. Venezuela

On 28 and 29 January, two bombs ruptured oil lines in eastern Venezuela and eight others failed to cause damage.

Banditry which may have been the work of members of the Armed Forces of National Liberation (FALN) erupted in the cattle-raising western state of Apure during the week of 18 January. At least one rancher was killed. The national guard subsequently killed at least one of the attackers and wounded several others.

On 24 January guards at the army's general headquarters located on the outskirts of Caracas were fired upon by unknown assailants who took advantage of cover provided by the surrounding hills. No casualties were reported.

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